



The Badger Exam 3-8:

A Wisconsin Smarter Balanced Assessment



Information for Educators

What is the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium?

Smarter Balanced is a state-led consortium working collaboratively to develop next-generation assessments that will measure student progress towards college and career readiness.

What is the Badger Exam 3-8: A Wisconsin Smarter Balanced Assessment?

The Badger Exam is a computer adaptive summative assessment administered in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics in grades 3-8 during the last eight weeks of the school year. The use of computer adaptive technology is more precise and efficient than fixed-form (paper/pencil) testing. Computer adaptive testing adjusts to a student's ability by basing the difficulty of each item on previous answers, providing more accurate measurement of student achievement.

The Badger Exam 3-8 goes beyond multiple-choice questions and includes constructed response, technology-enhanced questions, and performance tasks. Performance tasks require students to demonstrate analytical skills and real-world problem solving. The estimated time for test administration is around 4 hours for ELA assessments in each grade, and around 3½-4 hours for the mathematics assessment. The Smarter tests are not timed. These are projected testing times and may vary based on students' ability levels.

How are the test results used?

Timely and meaningful assessment results offer specific information about areas of performance so that teachers can follow up with targeted instruction. This will allow students to better target their own efforts, and administrators to more fully understand what students know and can do, in order to guide their curriculum and professional development decisions.

Teachers, principals, and parents will receive results from computerized assessments faster than with the previous paper/pencil test. Individual student results will be available electronically within 10 days of when the district completes all testing.



What type of scores will be provided?

The summative assessment provides information about what students know and can do in relation to Wisconsin's College and Career Ready Standards. Each score will fall into one of four levels:

- **Level 4** – Student demonstrates thorough understanding of and ability to apply the knowledge and skills associated with college content-readiness.
- **Level 3** – Student demonstrates adequate understanding of and ability to apply the knowledge and skills associated with college content-readiness.
- **Level 2** – Student demonstrates partial understanding of and ability to apply the knowledge and skills associated with college content-readiness.
- **Level 1** – Student demonstrates minimal understanding of and ability to apply the knowledge and skills associated with college content-readiness.

Where can I find sample or practice test questions?

There is a practice test available to help build awareness of the Smarter Balanced assessment functions and to increase teacher and student proficiency in navigating the applications, item types, and tools intended for operational assessment, as well as to provide a feel for the kind of items tested in Smarter assessments.

Practice Test questions include the full range of Smarter Balanced item types for both ELA and mathematics (selected-response items, constructed-response items, technology-enhanced items, and performance tasks.)

The Smarter Practice Test is available at <http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/assessment/Smarter/sampleitems>.

In January 2015, a Wisconsin specific practice test will be released.

For more information about the Badger Exam 3-8:
A Wisconsin Smarter Balanced Assessment,
contact the Office of Student Assessment at
osamail@dpi.wi.gov